

AMENDMENT

In the claims:

Please amend the claims so that the text of the amended claims read as follows:

A1 1. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising at least 34 contiguous bases of nucleotide sequence from SEQ ID NO:1.

2. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that:
(a) encodes the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2; and
(b) hybridizes under highly stringent conditions to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or the complement thereof.

Please add new claims 4 and 5 as follows:

A2 --4. (New) The expression vector of claim 3, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

5. (New) A host cell comprising the expression vector of claim 3.--

RESPONSE

I. Status of the Claims

No claims have been cancelled. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. New claims 4 and 5 have been added.

Claims 1-5 are therefore presently pending in the case. For the convenience of the Examiner, a clean copy of the pending claims is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**. In compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii), a marked up copy of the original claims is attached hereto as **Exhibit B**.

II. Support for the Amendments and Newly Added Claims

Claim 1 has been amended to further clarify the claim, and to recite that the isolated nucleic acid